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2) EDITORIALS

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- (2) Annual auto production at 10 million units: China should give momentum to green revolution

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- (1) Economic growth in two consecutive quarters: Adopt policies that will bring peace of mind, hope
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- (1) Hatoyama economic policies: Do not trigger recession caused by manifesto

Nikkei:

- (1) Formulate highly effective policies to prepare for economy losing steam
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- (1) Next generation supercomputer: Objection to freezing development without any strategy
- (2) Hatoyama's statements: Is he trying to damage trust between Japan and the U.S.?

Tokyo Shimbun:

- (1) Leaking of GDP figures: Coordination among cabinet ministers in question
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- (1) July-September quarter GDP: Urgent need for rehabilitation of livelihoods, employment

3) Prime Minister's Official Residence (Kantei)

Prime Minister's schedule, November 16

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
November 17, 2009

09:09 Signed in at the Imperial Palace to report his return to Japan.
09:38 Met National Strategy Minister Kan and Senior Vice Cabinet Minister Furukawa at the Kantei.
10:35 Met military analyst Kazuhisa Ogawa.
11:16 Met Finance Minister Fujii, Senior Vice Finance Minister Noda, Parliamentary Secretary for Finance Furumoto, Vice-Finance Minister Tango, and others.
12:20 Met Kan and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirano.
15:12 Met State Minister for Financial Affairs Kamei.
17:05 Attended talks between the central and local governments.
Later met Hirano.
19:31 Arrived at his official residential quarters.

4) Japan-U.S. working group to hold first meeting today to discuss

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Futenma relocation

MAINICHI (Page 1) (Full)
November 17, 2009

The governments of Japan and the U.S. on Nov. 17 will hold at the Foreign Ministry the first meeting of their ministerial-level working group to discuss the relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station (Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture). President Obama during the recent bilateral summit asked Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama to implement a Japan-U.S. agreement on the relocation of the Futenma functions to the coastal area of Camp Schwab in Nago City, Okinawa Prefecture. However, since Japan's cabinet ministers differ in their views on the relocation site and the timing to reach a decision, talks will likely face rough going.

The ministerial-level working group will be attended by Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada and Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa from the Japanese side, and U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos and Assistant Secretary of Defense Wallace Gregson from the U.S. side. The U.S. characterizes the working group as, in President Obama's words, "a vehicle intended to implement the agreement"; the group will not to approve revisions to the Japan-U.S. accord other than minor ones. However, the prime minister has repeatedly indicated his stance of not eliminating the option of relocation outside the prefecture. The U.S. and Okada want to reach a decision before year's end. However, the prime minister has hinted at the possibility of putting off a decision until after the Nago mayoral election in January next year.

5) Prime Minister: Japan-U.S. agreement not premise for Futenma relocation; cabinet-level meeting today

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Excerpts)
November 17, 2009

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama reiterated yesterday that the existing plan to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station to the coastal area of Camp Schwab, on which Japan and the United States agreed in 2006, is not the premise for the Futenma relocation issue. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada indicated that the relocation must be premised on the intergovernmental agreement to a certain extent. The views of the two leaders remained wide apart yesterday, the day before the first meeting of the Japan-U.S. cabinet-level working group on Nov. 17.

"I think that is the foreign minister's view," the Prime Minister said to the press corps last night about the foreign minister's statement. At the same time, the Prime Minister emphatically said: "I don't think there are concerns about Japan-U.S. relations. I think the relationship of trust has deepened between U.S. President Obama and myself."

The inaugural meeting today of the cabinet-level working group will be attended by Foreign Minister Okada and Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa from the Japanese side and U.S. Ambassador to Japan John

Roos, Assistant Secretary of Defense Wallace Gregson, and others from the U.S. side.

6) LDP's Ishiba slams premier again over Futenma

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)

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November 17, 2009

Shigeru Ishiba, chairman of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, reiterated yesterday his criticism of Prime Minister Hatoyama for his recent remarks over the pending issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station. The Japanese and U.S. governments plan to launch a ministerial working group to discuss the Futenma issue. However, Hatoyama has said the working group's discussions on the Futenma issue will not be premised upon the current relocation plan that is based on an intergovernmental agreement reached between Japan and the United States. "What the prime minister says is almost completely opposite from the U.S. President's view," Ishiba said. "This could produce irreparable consequences," he added.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada has indicated that it would be difficult to call off the bilateral agreement over Futenma. "That's an extremely sensible, appropriate judgment," Ishiba said, adding: "He was talking about verifying the Futenma issue, but I wonder if his judgment is a result of verifying the issue." Ishiba also pointed to divergence within the Hatoyama cabinet over the Futenma issue, saying, "They say they're doing things under their political initiative, but it's really just inconsistency in the cabinet."

7) Foreign Minister Okada tells Okinawan mayors that proposal to merge Futenma base with Kadena Air Base is "one option"

MAINICHI (Page 1) (Full)
Evening, November 16, 2009

Shinichiro Nishida, Teruhisa Mimori

In connection with the issue of the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station (in Ginowan City, Okinawa), Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada visited the Kadena Air Base (KAB) (straddling the towns of Kadena and Chatan and Okinawa City) on the morning of Nov. 16. Okada is considering a plan to merge the Futenma base with the KAB as an alternative to the current plan to relocate to the coastal area of Camp Schwab (in Nago City). After the visit, he met with Kadena Mayor Tokujitsu Miyagi and the mayors of Chatan and Okinawa City. Okada explained that "the Kadena merger plan is one of the options being considered" and that "the prerequisite is that the noise level will be lower than what it is at present."

Miyagi reiterated his opposition to the plan and pointed out that the 1996 agreement on measures to reduce noise has not been observed, and the noise level has not improved even with the relocation of training activities. He told Okada: "Our burden should be reduced first before any further plans are considered." Okada responded with: "If such an agreement exists, we will make (the U.S. forces) observe this agreement," indicating his intention to make efforts to reduce the local community's burden.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama gave the following comment on the new Japan-U.S. cabinet level working group on Futenma relocation on the morning of Nov. 16: "If everything is going to be decided based on the Japan-U.S. agreement, there will be no need for any discussions," stressing once again that discussions will not be premised upon the existing agreement. He also said: "President Obama also fully understands the meaning of engaging in discussions." He made the above statements in front of his official residential quarters.

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8) PM Hatoyama waffles on Futenma relocation

SANKEI (Top play) (Abridged)
November 17, 2009

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama continues to waver on the issue of the relocation of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station (in Ginowan City, Okinawa) in his statements. Shortly before the cabinet-level working group agreed upon at the Japan-U.S. summit meeting was to be convened, he said on the morning of Nov. 16: "If everything will be decided based on the (existing) Japan-U.S. agreement, there will be no need for any discussions." However, in the late afternoon of the same day, he commented that "the Japan-U.S. agreement has great significance." Why does he keep on wavering?

The background to this is the Prime Minister's political style of giving importance to public opinion. He likes to use the phrase "the feelings of the Okinawan people," and his comment on the hit-and-run incident in Yomitan Village, Okinawa, was "accidents like this occur because of the military bases." He has a strong desire to speak for the Okinawans, and this affects the main thrust of his statements. When he found out that toll-free expressways, one of the high-profile campaign pledges in the manifesto of the Democratic Party of Japan, was not popular in public opinion polls, he started talking about a policy shift. He gives absolute priority to public opinion.

Although Hatoyama does give consideration to the Japan-U.S. relationship, his statements change by the day. He said on Nov. 2: "I have no intention to ignore the Japan-U.S. agreement in making a decision," but stated subsequently on Nov. 16: "If everything will be decided based on the Japan-U.S. agreement, there will be no need for any discussions." His style of saying different things at different times is complicating the issue.

9) Kadena mayor nixes base merger plan

SANKEI (Page 5) (Full)
November 17, 2009

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada yesterday visited the U.S. Kadena Air Base in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, in connection with the pending issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station. After that, Okada met with three municipal heads, including Kadena Mayor Tokujitsu Miyagi, whose town hosts the Kadena base.

In the meeting, Okada asked for the local mayors' understanding of his proposal to integrate the heliport functions of Futenma airfield into the Kadena base. "It's a categorical imperative to lower noise levels," Okada said, adding: "We're now verifying the Futenma issue while assuming some of the Kadena base's functions will be transferred somewhere else. I'm thinking of negotiating with the United States."

However, Miyagi rejected Okada's advocacy of merging Futenma airfield with the Kadena base. "There's something very difficult about bringing the functions of Futenma to Kadena as is," Miyagi said. "We can't place faith in his saying the government will lessen our base-hosting burden."

10) Manifesto budget to be squeezed

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YOMIURI (Top play) (Lead para.)
November 17, 1009

The Democratic Party of Japan pledged in its manifesto for the Lower House election to implement various key policies, including toll-free highways, starting in fiscal 2010. However, the government on Nov. 16 decided to squeeze budgets for those policies, because, while the government was deciding the implementation time for those policies and its policy on budgetary distributions, related budgetary requests each government agency filed for fiscal 2010 have ballooned significantly. The government intends to vet the amounts of budgets requested by all government agencies in the same way it handled existing project programs without regarding the manifesto

budget as a sacred cow.

11) People's New Party, New Party Nippon to form new party before year end, aiming at becoming the third force

ASAHI (Page 4) (Abridged)
November 17, 2009

Shinichi Sekine

Shizuka Kamei (state minister for financial affairs and postal reform), leader of the People's New Party (PNP), has begun to move toward forming a new party. He will first form a parliamentary group with New Party Nippon (NPN) leader Yasuo Tanaka in the House of Representatives, then join forces with the group led by former Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry Takeo Hiranuma, aiming at launching a new party before year end. His goal is to gather the non-LDP and non-DPJ forces to secure a voice in politics, but it is unclear how effective this will be.

Kamei told reporters on Nov. 16: "The PNP and the NPN are both planning to dissolve the parties to form a new party. He (Tanaka) is also thinking about doing so," indicating that an agreement will be reached shortly. The new party will maintain the coalition with the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and the Social Democratic Party. At a news conference on the same day, DPJ Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa stated: "This will be a positive development if it boosts the number of ruling party seats (in the Diet)," thus expressing his approval of the founding of the new party.

12) DPJ Secretary General Ozawa: Government should submit own foreign residents' suffrage bill to the Diet

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)
November 17, 2009

In reference to a bill to grant local suffrage to permanent foreign residents, Democratic Party of Japan Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa said yesterday at a press conference: "It is best for the government to submit its own bill from the standpoint of making clear its position." DPJ Diet Affairs Committee Chairman Kenji Yamaoka on Nov. 6 expressed the intention to submit lawmaker-initiated legislation during the ongoing Diet session, but the government and DPJ decided to entrust Ozawa with the suffrage bill issue in their executive meeting on Nov. 11. Ozawa refrained from referring to the timing of submitting the bill.

13) Christian group protests remark by DPJ Secretary General Ozawa

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YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)
November 17, 2009

The Japan Confederation of Christian Churches, which is comprised of 60 Christian-related organizations and chaired by Nobuhisa Yamakita, has sent a letter of protest to the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) with regard to its Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa's remark that called Christianity "exclusive and self-righteous." In the letter, the Christian group said: "Ozawa's remark itself, based on a one-sided understanding of Christianity, was 'exclusive' and 'self-righteous.' We have serious doubts about his good judgment." The letter of protest was faxed and mailed to Ozawa on Nov. 11, the day after Ozawa made the remark. In response, Ozawa explained at a press conference yesterday that he was talking about fundamental differences between religious philosophies and outlooks on life.

14) Defense Ministry considering using MSDF transport vessel Osumi as yuai boat

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
November 17, 2009

Yasushi Sengoku

The Defense Ministry began considering yesterday using the Maritime

Self-Defense Force's transport vessel Osumi (178 meters long, 25.8 meters wide) as a yuai (fraternity) boat to carry out medical and other activities in a disaster-stricken area. The Osumi has a large amount of space to carry medical equipment and other supplies and is capable of transporting 330 Ground Self-Defense Force personnel. The ministry intends to dispatch the vessel after it takes part in joint exercises with the United States and other countries to be carried out in the next fiscal year.

The yuai boat concept was announced by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama in his Asia policy speech delivered in Singapore. According to this plan, private citizens and nongovernmental organization (NGO) personnel aboard a yuai boat will carry out medical and cultural exchange activities in the Pacific/Southeast Asian regions starting next year. "With the withdrawal of the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean near at hand, the plan is intended to play up the government's eagerness to make manpower contributions," a senior Defense Ministry official said.

15) Ban on bluefin tuna catch avoided through compromise: 40 percent cut in annual catch quota

MAINICHI (Page 3) (Lead para.)
November 17, 2009

At its annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on Nov. 15 reached an agreement to set a catch quota of bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic Ocean, including the Mediterranean Sea, for 2010 at 13,500 tons, by cutting the level by 38.6 percent from the 2009 level. The move reflects a growing call for the conservation of bluefin tuna. The cut in the catch quota is unlikely to have effects on Japan, such as a sharp rise in price, because its domestic stock of the fish has increased sharply due to sluggish consumption of the fish. However, if the trend of regulating catch quotas continues, a rise in price will be unavoidable over the mid- to long-term. A view calling for

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the application of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES = Washington Convention) on the fish, citing that the ICCAT catch quota regulation is insufficient, is deep-rooted in European countries and the U.S. As a result, the next focus of attention will be the CIES Conference of the Parties to be held next March.

ROOS